



Town of Plaistow ♦ Board of Selectmen
145 Main Street ♦ Plaistow ♦ NH ♦ 03865

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: April 1, 2024

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00 P.M.

Roll Call:

Select Chairman, Jay DeRoche – Present
Select Vice Chairman, Bill Coye – Present
Selectman, Jonathan Gifford – Present
Selectwoman, Tammy Bergeron – Present
Selectwoman Liz Kosta - Present

Also present: Town Manager Greg Colby and Administrative Specialist, Beth Hossack.

Public Comment

None.

Board Presentation

Mr. Darrell Britton is invited to the podium.

Select Chair DeRoche says thank you for all your years of service to the Town. Some of the work Mr. Brittan has done include:

Three (3) terms as a Recreation Commission Member

Three (3) terms as a Planning Board Member

Four (4) terms as a Selectman

He was also a Building Inspector years ago. All his hard work and dedication is much appreciated.

Selectman Coye states it was a pleasure working with him. When Selectman Coye started on the board Mr. Britton returned for another term. Selectman Coye states there was a lot going on.

Mr. Britton agrees, and he gives a special thank you to Mr. John Blinn, too.

Mr. Britton is presented with a rocking chair. He thanks everyone and appreciates the gift. Applause fills the room.

Fire Department Expend from Equipment Capital Reserve Account (heart monitor)

Chief Knutsen states the first full month of providing ambulance service is complete. Sixty (60) patients have been transported in one month. The response time is between four and one-half (4 ½) to five (5) minutes. When we had an outside ambulance service the response time was a minimum of thirteen (13) minutes. Approximately 78-80% of our calls require paramedics. We have also had

eighteen (18) occasions when we had two (2) calls at the same time. We currently have two (2) heart monitors. Heart monitors provide data on heart rhythm, pulse, oxygen and CO2 levels. These are important for providing the correct patient care. If one heart monitor goes down we do not have a backup. Chief Knutsen states that is the reason he is here tonight. He would like to purchase a refurbished Zoll Heart Monitor for \$26,279 using funds from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Account. Since the monitor is refurbished it is less expensive than a new one saving the Town about \$15,000. It also comes with a 3-year worry-free service plan. Selectwoman Bergeron asks what amount is in the fund? Town Manager G. Colby replies, \$30,000 was just passed at Town meeting.

Selectman Coye motions to authorize the Fire Chief to purchase a refurbished Zoll Heart Monitor for \$26,279 by withdrawing funds from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve fund. The monitor comes with a 3-year worry-free service plan and is highly recommended by Chief Knutsen. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Discussion: Selectman Gifford asks if one monitor was down last year for a while.

Chief Knutsen replies, yes, and it took a long time to get parts to repair it.

Selectwoman Kosta states she was at Pinnacle Physical Therapy recently and an ambulance was called. She states the response time was less than five (5) minutes and the paramedics were respectful, and compassionate. They used a heart monitor and did a great job for the patient.

Chief Knutsen agrees the paramedics we have are the best.

Select Chair DeRoche calls for a vote on the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Intersection of Westville & Main Street – Traffic Change

Town Manager G. Colby states the target date to start the traffic pattern change on the intersection of Westville Road and Main Street was April 2. That date has been pushed out to April 9 due to the lousy weather prediction for this week. Town Manager G. Colby along with Highway Supervisor D. Garlington and two selectmen met with some State Department of Transportation employees following the fatal accident last year at this intersection. The State is willing to help address the concerns. D. Garlington states barrels will be placed in a few different places to slow down traffic and reduce the driving lanes. This will be temporary to allow a study of how traffic may be improved. The intent is to find out if changing the intersection will make a difference. It is a very busy intersection. He plans to spend part of each day watching the intersection and collecting data. The study is anticipated to last for two (2) weeks.

Select Chair DeRoche asks if signage will be used.

Highway Supervisor D. Garlington replies, yes. A sign will be near Freedom Tire and another near Whiton Place. Once we have collected the data we will work with the State for a more permanent plan. An engineering study will need to be done. The Highway Supervisor will provide an update at a future Board meeting.

Review Winter – Dan Garlington

Highway Supervisor D. Garlington states winter is not going away.

Selectman Coye asks for a brief update of winter supplies, plowing concerns etc. to date.

Highway Supervisor D. Garlington states about 65% of the snow plowing budget has already been spent and not all of the invoices from the last storm are included in that figure. We have also spent about 80% of the salt & sand budget although we do have a lot left in the salt shed. He states we are

in better shape than last year. If we have a mild November and December we should be all set. The number of storms alone does not matter as much as the duration, timing, and winds that come with the storms. This season we had four (4) major long lasting rain and wind events.

Dragon Mosquito Control

Select Chair DeRoche states Dragon Mosquito Control has been spraying yearly for many years. The public notice is posted in Town Hall and on the website. He reads the notice for the record.

The Mosquito Control program begins the week of April 8, 2024 in the Town of Plaistow. Crews from Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc. will be checking swamps, marshes, woodland pools, ditches, catch basins, storm drains and other shallow, stagnant water for mosquito larvae. When mosquito larvae are found, treatment may occur using one or more of the following insecticides:

VectoBac (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* 2.8%)

VectoBac 12 AS (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* 11.61%)

Natular (Spinosad 2.5%)

BVA 2 Mosquito Larvicide Oil (mineral oil 97.0%)

SunSpray MLO (mineral oil 98.8%)

There is no schedule at this time to conduct emergency spraying for disease carrying mosquitoes. The determination to spray adult mosquitoes at town and school owned property is based on mosquito surveillance data, disease test results and weather conditions upon concurrence with town officials. The State Lab in Concord tests mosquitoes for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), Jamestown Canyon Virus and West Nile Virus. Further communication will be given if emergency spraying is going to take place.

Residents who do not want mosquito treatment to occur in wetlands on their property may use Dragon's No-Spray Registry at www.dragonmosquito.com/no-spray-registry or you may write to Dragon Mosquito Control, PO Box 46, Stratham, NH 03885. Be sure to include your name, physical address, phone number, house color and acreage. Call 603-734-4144 or email Help@DragonMosquito.com for more information on spray dates, locations, material used, precautions or other concerns.

Select Representatives to Boards/Committees/Commissions

The Board has decided upon the following representations for 2024.

Budget Committee – Primary = J. DeRoche, Alternate = L. Kosta

Capital Improvement Program (2) – Primary = J. DeRoche & B. Coye, Alternate = L. Kosta

Conservation Commission – Primary = T. Bergeron, Alternate = L. Kosta

Highway Safety – Primary = J. Gifford, Alternate = B. Coye

Energy Committee – Primary = J. Gifford, Alternate = L. Kosta

Planning Board – Primary = B. Coye, Alternate = J. DeRoche

Recreation Commission – Primary = J. Gifford, Alternate = B. Coye

Elder Affairs – Primary = L. Kosta, Alternate J. DeRoche

REDC – Primary = T. Moore, Alternate = J. DeRoche

Town Report Committee (2) – Primary = B. Coye & J. Gifford, Alternate = T. Bergeron

Old Home Day Committee – Primary = J. Gifford, Alternate = B. Coye

Historical Society – Primary = T. Bergeron, Alternate = J. Gifford

Hazmat – Primary = J. Gifford, Alternate – T. Bergeron

Liquidation of Radar Trailer (add on item)

Chair DeRoche states per the letter from Chief Santoro, he would like to dispose of the obsolete radar trailer. It is a 2001 Kustom Radar trailer which is beyond repair and has no residual value. A new trailer has been ordered and should arrive at the end of the month.

Selectman Gifford motions to approve the disposal of the 2001 Kustom Radar Trailer recommended by Chief Santoro via letter. Seconded by Selectwoman Bergeron.

Discussion: The trailer is over twenty (20) years old and parts for it are no longer available.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Develop BOS Goals

Chair DeRoche would like to come up with a list of goals to work on this year. The goals can be aligned with Town Manager goals. Some of the ideas mentioned are:

- Monthly department expenditures.
- Encouraging volunteerism.
- Address roof issues at the Fire Station.
- Consider moving the ambulance service to an enterprise fund and removing it from the budget.
- Review what ARPA funds have been used and what is still available to spend.
- Increase Communication and Transparency.
- Consider having a High School Senior be a Junior Selectman.

Approval of Prior Nonpublic Session Minutes

The nonpublic session minutes from March 18, 2024 are reviewed.

Selectwoman Bergeron motions to approve the nonpublic session minutes of March 18, 2024. Seconded by Selectwoman Kosta.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Consent Agenda

Item Description

1. Accounts Payable Manifest week of March 28th and April 4th, 2024.
2. BOS Draft Minutes of March 18th, and March 20th, 2024.
3. Seven (7) 2023 Abatement Recommendations.
4. Five (5) Secondhand Dealer/Pawnbroker License Renewals.
5. One (1) Disabled Tax Exemption.
6. One (1) Surviving Spouse Veteran Tax Credit Application.

Selectwoman Bergeron motions to approve the consent agenda as written. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Action Item List

This will be a work in progress. Some initial ideas include:

- Memorial Day Event Planning.
- Mt. Misery Trail System – Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting.
- Review Process for the Town Manager
- Find a Junior Selectman.
- Transportation – work on a plan.
- Volunteerism – work on a plan.

Town Managers Report/Potable Water Update

- Held a department head meeting recently.
- Met with the new Planning Board Chair.
- Met with the newest Board of Selectmen Member
- Working on the financial analysis for the first quarter of 2024.
- Working on a lot of Federal reporting. Example Asset Forfeiture.
- Working on a report for NH Retirement.
- Working with the Police and Fire Chiefs on a Congressional Direct Spending Grant Application.
- Some more water connections are starting up.
- ARPA Reporting is due soon.
- The leach field at the Public Safety Complex is complete.
- Working on an extension for the PFAS Grant and another grant is in the works.

Selectman Coye asks how the grant for the fire truck is coming.

Town Manager G. Colby replies it is with the Governor's Council and will be finalized soon.

Selectman Gifford asks when the trash contract is up and when we should begin looking at issuing an RFP.

Town Manager G. Colby replies the trash contract ends in 2026. Towards the end of this year the Board should get an RFP out. It takes vendors a long time to order trucks if necessary.

Selectmen's Reports

Selectman Gifford – nothing to report this week.

Selectwoman Kosta – Attended the Toddler Easter Egg Hunt.

Selectwoman Bergeron – nothing to report this week.

Selectman Coye

- Attended the Planning Board reorganization meeting. The Chair is Richard Anthony, and the Vice Chair is Karen Robinson. The two (2) alternates are Tom Alberti and Dan Kane.
- Assisted with baseball registration. Opening Day will be the first Saturday in May.

Select Chair DeRoche

- Attended the Easter Egg Hunt on the Town Green on Saturday. The eggs were all collected in two (2) minutes.

He mentions a special person will turn 90 on April 9th. That person is Norm Major. If you see him wish him a Happy Birthday.

Events

1. It is not too late to sign up for the virtual Local Officials Workshop on Wednesday, April 3 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you want Beth to sign you up let her know and provide an email address for the Zoom link.
2. NHMA is holding a 91-A (Right to Know) workshop here at Town Hall on Wednesday, April 10 from 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. All employees and board/committee/commission members are strongly encouraged to attend. BOS – please let Beth know if you will be attending. We need a head count for the workshop.
3. Town wide cleanup day – Saturday, April 20, meet at the gazebo between 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. to collect specially marked garbage bags. Leave filled bags curbside and our Highway Dept. will collect them.
4. Several activities for School vacation week have been planned. Please check the Recreation page or call Jenn for more information.
5. There will be a Household Hazardous Waste drop off day on Saturday, April 27 at the Public Works Garage from 900 a.m. to noon. Items to bring can be found on the website and flyers are in Town Hall.
6. There will be a rabies clinic at the Public Safety Complex on April 6 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

As there is no further business before the Board, Chair DeRoche adjourned the meeting at 7:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Administrative Specialist